GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
SIDE EFFECTS OF SILVER FILLINGS
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that silver fillings used for bridging the gap in the tooth if consumed or exposed to on a high level, can cause deadly side-effects to both patients and doctors;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter thereof;

(c) whether these silver fillings have been banned in the western countries;

(d) if so, the reasons cited by them for the same;

(e) the reasons for its continuance in India; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (f) The dental cavities are filled with silver fillings, which is a blend of silver and mercury, for the last hundred years or so not only in India but world-wide. There is no data of long-term research studies to substantiate the side-effects of this material. It is widely believed that mercury used in the amalgams does not pose health risk except in rare instances. This procedure is not practiced in Scandinavian countries as population there is allergic to this filling material.